

**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE JANE GARIBAY**  
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**VICE CHAIR**  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
AGING COMMITTEE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Senator Haskell, Representative Elliott, and distinguished members of the committee:

I'm here today to testify in favor of House Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct On College Campuses.

Sexual assault is a major problem in the state of Connecticut, and it especially affects our college campuses. The state of Connecticut is the proud home of 44 colleges, and on these campuses, the number of reported incidences of sexual violence has grown over the years. In order to lessen these numbers and fight preventable sexual violence, we must report this bill favorably out of committee.

House Bill 6374 proposes legislation that would both protect student survivors and create accessible data concerning the staggering amount of sexual assault occurrences. Firstly, this bill will require Connecticut colleges and universities to administer surveys every two years pertaining to students' experience with campus sexual violence. Through these surveys, students will be able to anonymously report their experiences of sexual violence on campus, and institutions will gain reliable data that can help them make their students safer.

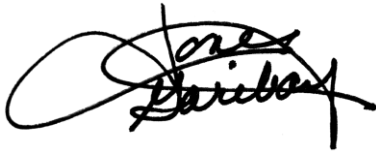
Furthermore, by having a biennial timeline on these surveys most students will have two different opportunities during their college career to provide feedback on their campus experiences. The longer that students are at an institution, the more experiences they will have and the more accurate their feedback will be. That is an important step in making our campuses safer.

In addition to requiring Connecticut colleges to administer biennial campus climate surveys, this bill will also enforce an amnesty policy requirement in sexual violence reporting. This commonsense policy prohibits colleges from penalizing students who report sexual violence for

drug or alcohol. In order to foster a safer, more welcoming environment for survivors of sexual violence, it is imperative that barriers such as the stigma of substance use during sexual assault be torn down. That is what this part of the bill does.

If we pass HB 6374, we will create safer and more inclusive college campuses for our students. Every survivor matters, especially those who are college students and future residents of our state. I ask you to please vote this bill out of committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Garibay". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

State Representative Jane Garibay